

March 6, 1984

LR 235

going to be less likely to make suggestions to the judges that maybe what they did in this particular instance was wrong and I think the basic purpose of a private reprimand is to notify the judges that to say, listen, we don't like it when you go out and do this in public or when you do this in the courtroom. And I think if you pass this law and it is made public, I don't think in the future you are going to have those type of reprimands and for that basis I will not be supporting LR 235. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I believe that everybody who has spoken has given an opinion which could have validity but a decision is going to have to be made one way or the other when we vote. I don't know whether the vote today, whether it is yea or nay, will be the final vote that will be taken. I don't know whether the vote that a person gives today will necessarily be the one they will give all the way across the board but when we talk about the duty of public officials and disclosure of actions to be taken against those public officials it may be a good idea for this Legislature to look at all public officials who may breach their duty in some respect. Senator Von Minden, before you go I would like to ask you a question. After, so that this can be in the record, after we know what a judge who was accused may have done, what should follow then with that judge? Should that just end it? Is that all you are anticipating in your bill, just notify the person of what has been done and whatever punishment is imposed is accepted?

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Well, Senator Chambers, my bill doesn't change the way it is now, the way they reprimand them.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I know but I mean you are only interested in knowing what is decided by the Commission. For example, if a judge is found to have used his position to gain favors from a female defendant and it is established that he did that and the Commission wants to only reprimand him and nothing more, would you be concerned about the type of punishment imposed or you only want to know what punishment